

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

To Whom It May Concern,

Thanks for listening. I think that media consolidation is a very bad idea. It is no secret that media is a very powerful and driving force in society. Media consolidation reduces the number of independent voices in the community through sheer ubiquity. This is contrary to our democratic principles and arguably in violation of antitrust principles.

As a citizen of St. Louis, I am proud to say that we have KDHX, one of the few surviving (and thriving) community radio stations, but in reality that is a sad state of affairs. It used to be that most radio stations, while corporate to some degree, were autonomous and creative. DJs played their favorite songs and, for the most part, had carte blanche on the airwaves. Nowadays, most corporate radio is delivered by DJs who are little more than spokespeople for the products that the parent corporations wish to peddle. They don't create their own playlists or contribute to programming in any way.

Many people are thankful to have NPR, but even that can't fill the void in this respect. Stations like KDHX should be the norm around the country.

Allowing single companies to own more and more stations (radio and television) in a single market will simply accelerate the trend and threaten to eliminate what competition there is left.

That competition is healthy for the American public and should be preserved at all costs. Thanks for your time.